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it is here placed, other than a Black Oak." Each of the figured species is accompanied by a complete bibliography, description, account of habitat, and interesting general remarks. An interesting point to note is the fact that although none of the specific names ante-date the year 1801, and most of them were given for the first time since 1849, yet the synonymy of several is already quite lengthy and requires not a little care to unravel successfully and avoid confusion. Prof. Greene has faithfully adhered to the law of priority in nomenclature, and several changes are to be noted from commonly accepted names. *Q. Morehus*, Kellogg, is separated from the evergreen species *Q. Wislizeni*, A.DC., with which it was confused in Dr. Watson's Botany of California. Under this latter species Prof. Greene says: "I am now constrained to refer to the present species a diminutive bush oak, indigenous to the higher parts of Santa Cruz Island, which shortly after its discovery I published as new, under the name *Q. parvula*. * * * " *Q. Breweri*, Engelm., (1880), becomes *Q. Œrstediana*, R. Br. Campst., (1871). *Q. Gambelli*, Nutt., is restored to specific rank. *Q. oblongifolia*, Torr., is referred to *Q. undulata*, Torr., var. *grisea* (Liebm.), Engelm., and *Q. oblongifolia*, Engelm., becomes *Q. Engelmanni*, Greene. These are but a few of the many points of interest which may be gleaned from a careful study of the work. It will also be noticed that Prof. Greene has allowed the unconventional to influence his nomenclature in several instances, as in the case of *Quercus dumosa munita*, Greene, which is certainly euphonious, but which, it seems to us, would appear more in keeping with the character of the work if written *Q. dumosa*, Nutt., var. *munita*, Greene. The book will always be not only a pleasure to look at from an artistic standpoint, but also one of invaluable reference for the student, even after other new species shall have been added from the region.

A. H.

Proceedings of the Club.

The regular monthly meeting was held Tuesday evening, May 14, 1889, the President in the chair and twenty-five persons present.

Mrs. H. L. Smith was elected an Active Member.

Mr. Hogg exhibited a bright pink-bracted form of the common dogwood, *Cornus florida*, from a graft on the ordinary form grown at Flushing, L. I., the original stock coming from Weldon, North Carolina. The beautiful plant was much admired.

Miss Steele showed albino flowers of *Polygala paucifolia*, from Concord, N. H.

Dr. Northrop showed specimens of *Viola palmata* from Pelham Manor, with lobed petals, specimens of *Pinus rigida* from Cliffwood, N. J., having the primary leaves 1¼ inches long, and some of the secondary leaves in fours, and called attention to the 4-ranked arrangement of the prickles on the stem of *Smilax rotundifolia*.

Dr. Rusby then delivered the announced paper of the evening on "The Melastomaceæ." He illustrated his remarks for the most part by the very numerous specimens collected by himself in Bolivia and Brazil, including some twenty-six undescribed species. He remarked on the exceedingly ornamental appearance of the trees and shrubs, on the use of various species as dye-plants, the name of the order and the original genus *Melastoma* being derived from the fact that the seeds of that genus stain the mouth black when chewed. The great profusion and beauty of their flowers have gained for them the name "Rhododendrons of the Andes."

The adjourned meeting was held Wednesday evening, May 29, the President in the chair and fifty-one persons present.

Professor Wm. R. Dudley, of Cornell University, addressed the Club on "The Marine Laboratory at Naples and its Influence on Theories of Scientific Work." The lecture was illustrated with lantern views, and was heard with great interest and profit, and at its close a vote of thanks was extended to the speaker for the pleasure the members had received.

The chairman of the Field Committee announced that no excursions would be arranged during either July or August, as the experience of the past two seasons had shown that almost all the members were away from the city during those months, but that they would be resumed in September.

Dr. Rusby exhibited specimens of the fruits of a species of

Lecythis and of *Bertholetia excelsa*. The latter furnishes the ordinary Brazil nuts of commerce, while the former furnishes a nut known in Brazil as Sapucaya, but which is rarely collected in quantity sufficient for export. He called attention to the different methods by which the seeds escaped from these two woody cases. In *Lecythis* the hypanthium is furnished with an operculum which composes one-fourth of the structure, and which falls off with the falling of the fruit, thus allowing the seeds to escape. In *Bertholetia* the operculum is minute and the seeds apparently remain within the case until this is ruptured by their swelling on absorbing water.

Mr. Lighthipe showed a single specimen of *Hyoscyamus niger*, found near the railroad at Woodbridge, N. J. The plant is but rarely found within the one hundred mile circle.

Dr. Newberry called the attention of the Club to an interesting case of the failure of insect fertilization of a plant and the subsequent failure of fruit production that had recently come to his attention. It appears that on the Dry Tortugas there are almost no insects, and while the pumpkin vines grew thriftily, no pumpkins could be produced until the plan of dusting the pistillate flowers with pollen was put into operation and an abundant supply obtained. Dr. Newberry remarked also upon the recent elaborate monograph of West American Oaks, by Professor E. L. Greene, illustrated by the drawings of the late Dr. Albert Kellogg, and exhibited a copy of the work. It is reviewed at length on another page.

Dr. Britton reported his recent observation on the fertilization of *Smilax rotundifolia* by small bees which were observed busily visiting the staminate flowers in bright sunshine about midday at Prince's Bay, Staten Island, during the Field Excursion of May 25th. The insects were watched by several members of the Club.

The Secretary announced that copies of the new List of Members, Constitution and By-Laws had been mailed to every member of the Club.

The editor announced the completion and distribution of Vol. I. No. 1 of the "Memoirs."